



To the Texas Tech Community,

Following a January 2010 laboratory explosion that left a graduate student seriously injured, Texas Tech rededicated itself to a culture of laboratory safety. Three years later, we are making strides in becoming the exemplar campus that we promised to become.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigated the accident and in October 2011 made two recommendations. The first was that Texas Tech revise and expand its chemical hygiene plan (CHP) to ensure that physical safety hazards are addressed.

That recommendation has been met with the publication in January of a revised CHP for TTU.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and the Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee have spent many hours to ensure that our CHP is complete and clearly defines roles, responsibilities and procedures around laboratory safety. The new plan can be found on the EHS website.

With this letter to our faculty, staff and students, I am reaffirming my support of the chemical hygiene plan. I commend the leadership of our faculty in recognizing the inherent risks of conducting research and for taking responsible action to run safe laboratories and studios to ensure that our students, faculty and staff are safe.

The new TTU CHP addresses a wide variety of issues, including:

- duties of departmental chemical hygiene officers and laboratory safety captains
- physical hazards in laboratories
- faculty, staff and student training
- faculty and laboratory supervisor responsibilities
- allowing minors in laboratories
- hazard identification
- waste handling
- procedures for closing a laboratory

While the Department of Environment Health and Safety is charged with monitoring safety conditions in our laboratories and studies, safety is everyone's responsibility. It is essential that our deans, department chairs, directors, faculty and staff lead this effort.

If you have questions about the new CHP, please don't hesitate to call EHS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lawrence Schovanec'.

Lawrence Schovanec
Interim President
Texas Tech University